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Death rates per 100,000 for principal causes, April and May, 1920, and year 1919.

[Industrial Department, Metropolitan Life Insurance Co.]

Causes of death.	Rate per 100,000 lives exposed.		
	May, 1920.	April, 1920.	Year 1919. ¹
Total, all causes.....	927.7	1,085.6	1,063.0
Typhoid fever.....	4.2	3.3	7.3
Measles.....	13.1	13.3	3.5
Scarlet fever.....	4.8	7.0	3.9
Whooping cough.....	6.2	6.6	3.2
Diphtheria.....	16.2	19.7	20.9
Influenza.....	25.4	61.5	96.9
Tuberculosis (all forms).....	144.5	163.0	156.5
Cancer.....	62.9	66.5	67.0
Meningitis (all forms).....	7.9	7.2	6.4
Cerebral hemorrhage.....	58.3	65.0	59.8
Organic diseases of heart.....	116.8	130.4	113.9
Pneumonia (all forms).....	90.8	124.6	117.2
Other respiratory diseases.....	20.0	24.2	17.0
Diarrhea and enteritis.....	8.8	12.0	16.9
Bright's disease.....	70.4	77.7	73.5
Puerperal state.....	16.9	21.9	20.0
Suicides.....	6.0	5.9	6.8
Homicides.....	5.0	4.4	6.9
Other external causes (excluding suicides and homicides).....	49.9	52.1	80.4
Traumatism by automobile.....	9.0	8.1	10.7
War deaths.....	(²)	(²)	16.6
All other causes.....	199.3	219.3	184.9

¹ Based upon final tabulations for year 1919.

² Less than 0.05 per 100,000.

DANGER FROM FLIES RECOGNIZED BY COURT.

The Supreme Judicial Court of Maine has decided ¹ that a guest who had contracted for a two weeks' stay at a hotel was justified in leaving before the expiration of the two weeks when the dining room was infested with flies.

A contract was entered into for a two weeks' stay at a hotel. After three or four days the guests left, paying the regular transient rate for the time they had been at the hotel. The reason assigned for leaving was that the flies in the dining room constituted a nuisance and were dangerous to health. No complaint was made regarding other conditions at the hotel.

The proprietor sought to recover for the full two weeks' stay contracted for, and he succeeded in the lower court. But the supreme court granted the motion of the defendant for a new trial, holding that the guests were justified in leaving the hotel for the reason that they did. The opinion treats at great length of the dangers of the fly and quotes from public health literature on the subject.

¹ Williams v. Sweet, 110 Atl., 316.